

# Training for Planning Commissioners

*An affordable alternative for commissioners also provides CEU to professional planners*



Beginning in 2008, professional planners are required to complete continuing education courses to retain their accreditation. All the courses that make up the Certified Planning Commissioners' Program were submitted for consideration and have been approved at a rate of 1 CM hour per 1 hour of instructional time. The last two trainings scheduled in the year are Ethics and the Commission on September 24 and Site Plan Review on October 28. The Certified Planning Commissioners' Program was developed by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission in partnership with the University of Cincinnati School of Planning. The Program was a 2004 NACO Award Winner.

## Planning Partnership Echoes from Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held at the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati on April 7th. Gwen McFarlin, Springfield Township Trustee was elected Chair of the Planning Partnership.

Guest speakers were Kevin Ghassomian on the topic Agenda 360 and County Commissioner Todd Portune on the topic

Agenda for Growth and Positive Change.

The Frank Ferris II Planning Award was presented to North College Hill for its Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Partnership Executive Committee and the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission will have a joint

orientation/strategic planning session on August 7th with the focus on what is the value added that the Planning Partnership-Regional Planning Commission provide to its members, and how it can be reflected in the organization's business plan.

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Your community can make you eligible for free assistance.*

*More on page 5*

## From the Director's Desk

For those of you who might not know, Ron Miller, the long time Executive Director of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), retired at the end of April. Upon his departure, the RPC appointed me to serve as the Interim Director until such time that a permanent director can be appointed.



*Todd Kinskey, AICP  
Interim Director*

I accepted this appointment with some hesitancy because of the difficulty of replacing such an effective, well-respected leader. Ron set a standard for leadership that will be very difficult to follow and certainly cannot be replicated. Based on comments from colleagues lamenting on Ron's departure, he was viewed as an incredibly hard working, visionary leader who single-handedly elevated the importance of planning in Hamilton County. His knowledge and advice will be greatly missed and I wish him the best in his retirement.

As difficult as replacing Ron may be, I am doing my best to carry on the mission of RPC and its various work programs. During this interim period, I am continuing to serve as Development Services Administrator, which is possible only because some employees have taken on more responsibility to assure all our work is completed on time. For this help, I am very grateful.

As a thirteen-year employee of RPC, I am well aware of the ambitious work program we have undertaken and the challenges associated with continuing to achieve success at a high level. To this end, you have my promise of hard work in fulfillment of Planning Partnership programs and in shaping its future work program.

I look forward to working with Planning Partnership members and the Executive Committee in the upcoming months. Please feel free to contact me at 946-4454 or [todd.kinskey@hamilton-co.org](mailto:todd.kinskey@hamilton-co.org) for any reason. Thank you.

Todd Kinskey, AICP

## City of North College Hill "Comp" Plan A Community Affair

2008 Frank F. Ferris II Award Winner

An eleven member steering committee and numerous opportunities for residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to participate in the planning process that culminated with the Comprehensive Plan for the city of North College Hill, weighed heavily in the selection of this project as the 2008 Frank F. Ferris II Award winner.

North College Hill is a landlocked community surrounded by Mt. Healthy, Springfield Township, Colerain Township and College Hill, a Cincinnati neighborhood. The bedroom community, with a compact city center and a defined business corridor, is facing the challenge of how to retain its current population while attracting new residents and investors.



*Public Open House held at the Cloverbrook Senior Center on May 23, 2007*

The Plan's emphasis is on improving quality of life to make North College Hill a community of "well maintained neighborhoods." Mayor Dan Brooks believes the Plan will give developers a clear message of how the City wants to develop in the future and help provide the development community the confidence they need to invest in the City.

The Frank F. Ferris II Community Planning Award is awarded annually

to a local planning commission or planning committee whose efforts have contributed to the elevation of planning principles, greater awareness of the value of planning, and improved quality of life.

## Village of Fairfax—Wooster Pike Corridor Revitalization Funds Secured For Improvements

By Catalina Landivar-Simon, AICP



*Jennifer Kaminer  
Village Administrator*

There is never a dull moment in the Village of Fairfax.

The 2000 Wooster Pike Revitalization Plan called for an improved streetscape, a pedestrian friendly neighborhood business corridor, and suggested closing of some streets to eliminate through traffic in residential areas. However, not much has happened in the corridor in the past few years, due to the urgency of improvements in the Red Bank Road Corridor. With the Red Bank Road Corridor well underway, the Village is switching gears and focusing its attention on the Wooster Pike Corridor.

In 2007, Fairfax signed on to the Regional Planning Commission's (HCRPC) Project Impact program, requesting assistance in the implementation of the 2000 Wooster Pike Corridor Plan. An assessment was presented to elected officials, staff and the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). HCRPC staff also outlined next steps and resources to move into implementation.

This year the Village of Fairfax applied for and obtained Neighborhood Business District designation from ODOT, lowering the speed limit in the corridor to 25MPH. The Village also allocated funds to study the traffic impacts of the

revitalization plan. Barr and Prevost Engineering was retained to conduct the engineering studies, and to prepare a Congestion and Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant application. The application was successful and the Village has a commitment of \$1.9 million from federal grants to be disbursed in 2010, which will allow to move on with the revamping of the corridor. Improvements include new traffic lights, 3-lane section with the middle lane being a left-turn lane, closing off some streets, pedestrian crossings, new sidewalks, raised medians, and a revamped streetscape.

On June 30th, the Village of Fairfax held two public hearings to inform residents and business owners of the proposed improvements and to get comments to consider in a revised engineering proposal. Elected officials are adamant about making public participation an integral part of the improvement plan. Caroline Duffy from Barr and Prevost and Jennifer Kaminer Village Administrator are coordinating dissemination of information, one on one meetings, and other opportunities to promote two way communication that will result in an improvement plan that is satisfactory to all involved parties.

For more information contact Jennifer Kaminer, Village Administrator at 513-527-6503.



# The Critical Role of Volunteers in a Community

By Catalina Landivar-Simon, AICP

Once the excitement of the preparation of the “big” plan subsides after a document is produced, it is not uncommon that many communities and organizations end up with one more book on the shelf, and many residents and business owners wondering if anything will ever come from the effort.

Providing opportunities for local volunteers to become engaged in the implementation of community projects is sometimes what sets apart “a community” from “a vibrant community,” and a plan/community vision on a bookshelf from a vision turned into reality.

“Volunteers provide many intangibles that cannot be easily quantified. For example volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects,” points out, the Independent Sector a coalition of approximately 600 charitable organizations, which estimated **the average dollar value of volunteer time is \$19.51 per hour** for 2007.

## Leadership and Recognition

Those local jurisdictions that have a positive vision and a clearly stated role for the volunteers, and the acknowledgement they are a valuable human resource that can directly contribute to the achievement of the community’s goals are in an advantageous position, and constantly reap the benefits of their involvement.

One of those is the City of Springdale. Its Administrator, Cecil Osborn, said, referring to seniors in the community “the city makes an effort to retain and provide housing opportunities for our seniors. We can’t afford to lose the valuable resources and life experience they contribute to the community, volunteering in many committees and mentoring youth.”

## Because They Care

Planning and Zoning Commissions can “clock” many volunteer hours. Over the years, the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC) has seen hundreds of planning and zoning commissioners carve time out of their days to attend seminars and workshops. Most recently, Dave Aaronson from Forest Park, completed the Certified Planning Commissioners’ Program. A five-session training that helps commissioners get information and develop skills necessary to make sound recommendations to their elected officials over developments in their communities. Mr. Aaronson jokingly said that he was probably the commissioner that took the longest to complete the Program (because of a cold and scheduling conflicts). But, his persistence and his desire to learn, is remarkably common to others like him who take the “business of volunteering” seriously.

## Recruitment and Board Development

Many jurisdictions and organizations complain of volunteer burn out: only the usual “suspects” will show up. Some local jurisdictions have successfully instituted a community wide “call for volunteers” and organized an all day fair/retreat, when interested individuals can match their skills, time availability, and interests to specific projects. Frank Davis, Community Development Director from the City of Montgomery 513-792-8347 can tell you how Montgomery’s volunteer program works.

## Cheviot’s Volunteers Make Things Happen

In August 2006, Cheviot began working with the HCRPC on Project Impact, which is designed to assist communities in identifying and implementing revitalization strategies. The Cheviot Project Impact Committee, comprised of 12 members, targeted three strategies: (a) market Cheviot as a great place to live and do business, (2) improve residential properties, and (3) improve the business district, says Caroline Statkus, HCRPC staff.

Volunteers’ participation  
should not end  
when the community  
plan is adopted

The opportunity to gather input and learn what other communities are doing was helpful in deciding to first focus on improving residential properties. A property maintenance code was adopted by Council along with an aggressive enforcement campaign. Cheviot took advantage of the HUD Dollar Home Program and purchased three homes for rehab. As those homes are renovated, they are sparking home fix-ups in surrounding areas. To reach out to potential homebuyers, Cheviot held two first-time homebuyers’ workshops sponsored in conjunction with local savings and loan institutions. More than 200 persons attended these workshops.

As part of the marketing of Cheviot, a subgroup of the Project Impact committee held a Realtors’ Brunch in February 2008. Three new products were offered: a New Resident Information Packet (to be placed in homes for sale), information sheets on Cheviot city services, and a 6-minute video spotlighting Cheviot as a great place to live. To engage current residents, a community newsletter is in production and will be mailed twice a year. As a portal to the outside world, Cheviot’s website is undergoing

renovation.

Although Cheviot has a stable business district and has established itself as a nightlife entertainment district, overall streetscape appearance is dated and uncoordinated. A Project Impact subcommittee wrote an RFP (request for proposals) for a streetscape plan (funded by the Cheviot Westwood Business Association for \$25,000) and distributed to landscape architecture firms. The City has received \$10,000 in CDBG funds for hanging flower baskets for the business district and is working with OKI to obtain additional funding for streetscape implementation.

## Lincoln Heights: Developing A Common Agenda

By providing opportunities to connect, local jurisdictions are helping residents change the “hands off” dynamics, and create civic agendas for action. Hear from John and Tonya Key, a married couple from Lincoln Heights, on participating in the Civic Agenda Process, a process co-facilitated by Dean Niemeyer, HCRPC staff and Peter Block, Small Group.

“We are residents of the Village of Lincoln Heights. We have participated in the Lincoln Heights Civic Agenda Process since November of 2007. We were very excited to get the opportunity to share our knowledge about our community, as well as, learn from other residents. During the Civic Agenda Process, we have been able to engage in conversation with other residents and community leaders, whom up until this point, we did not even know.

This process has allowed us to develop relationships with our council members, the youth in our community, as well as, our community activists. This is the first experience we have had of any kind, learning about how our Village Government works and areas of concern in which we as residents are able to participate in problem solving. There have been many ups and downs in this process. But with perseverance and passion, for wanting to see our Village be considered one of the top communities to live and raise children in, we push on.

There is so much potential within the people of our village, and during this process we have seen people step up to be heard and feel good about being able to participate in a community changing process. We are so encouraged about the roles that residents are playing in this engagement opportunity, and we are expecting cultural changes to occur overtime. “

*Catalina Landivar-Simon, Senior Planner HCRPC, can be reached at [Catalina.landivar@hamilton-co.org](mailto:Catalina.landivar@hamilton-co.org).*

# ODOD Grant

## Encourages Regional Collaboration for Delivery of Services

The Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant Program, designed to encourage new forms of collaboration among Ohio's many governmental jurisdictions, was established in the 2008-2009 Ohio Biennial Budget.

It provides \$1 million in grants to local governments interested in examining the possibility of combining and/or collaborating on its services with other local governments.

Although eligible applicants for the program are counties, municipal corporations or townships, applicants are encouraged to work with other partners such as school districts, regional economic development organizations, port authorities or solid waste districts to name only a few.

The idea behind these dollars is to make resources available to local governments who want to explore how and what sorts of collaborations might work for them.

Grant awards will be used solely for the cost of conducting a feasibility study addressing whether, and in what manner, services may be combined.

Applicants will propose the feasibility study designed to combine and/or collaborate on its services with those of at least two other counties, municipal corporations, or townships; or any combination of at least two other counties,

municipal corporations, or townships.

Examples of local government services could include economic development, health and human services, police and fire protection, 9-1-1 emergency service, public safety communications, refuse collection, snow removal, road repair, parks and recreation, and public utilities such as water and sewer services.

Study proposals that demonstrate similar needs in other communities and potential for

*Grant will reward creativity and innovation in the shared delivery of local government services*

replication by other local governments may be scored more favorably than proposals that do not suggest broad potential impact.

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) may also take into account geographic diversity and subject matter variation to encourage broad study of collaboration opportunities.

The program is designed to reward collaborations with more participants by increasing the State's share of the grant. Grant amounts will range from \$30,000, or 50 per-

cent of the total cost of the feasibility study, to \$80,000, or 100% of the total cost of the feasibility study - depending on the number of counties, municipal corporations, or townships partnering for a study.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a report to the Ohio Department of Development, after the feasibility study is complete, demonstrating the progress of the implementation of the recommendations in the feasibility study. These final reports will be due by September 30, 2009.

The Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant Program will be administered through the Community Development Division within the Ohio Department of Development. **The application deadline is July 29** and awards will be announced in September.

The grant application can be found at [http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cms/uploadedfiles/Root/Quick\\_Navigation/Local%20Government%20Services%20Collaboration%20Program%20Application%20FINAL\\_May08\\_BRANDED.pdf](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cms/uploadedfiles/Root/Quick_Navigation/Local%20Government%20Services%20Collaboration%20Program%20Application%20FINAL_May08_BRANDED.pdf)

**Sources:** ODOD

<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/Collaboration/>  
Press release: May 20, 2008 Melissa Vice 614-466-6619 or Kelly Schissberg 614-4133

### Legislative Update

## Approved Committee to Study Reforms to Local Governments

By Senator Robert Schuler



Senator Bob Schuler

In April, Representatives Larry Wolpert and Larry Flowers introduced House Bill 521, legislation geared toward creating more efficient government. This bill forms the Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration (OCLGRC) and charges the members with the task of developing recommendations for achieving these goals.

For example, under H.B. 521, the OCLGRC must consider the consolidation of local government offices and authorities; including schools and libraries, and the reform of the constitutional, statutory and administrative duties of these entities in order to reduce overhead and operational expenses.

H.B. 521 received several hearings in the House Local & Municipal Government Com-

mittee. Because a number of us, legislators and local government associations, expressed concerns about the bill, it was not voted out of committee.

For instance, language in the bill was deemed to be too broad, to exclude representatives of important local government groups from the commission and to disregard the relationship between local and state government. Some people feared that the OCLGRC's recommendations would result in the elimination of necessary local government offices.

After consultation with the Senate and local government associations, H.B. 521 was altered.

The bill's new provisions include:

- (a) more clearly specifying the duties of the OCLGRC
- (b) expanding the commission's membership to include representatives from local government groups, such as the Ohio Township Association, the Ohio Municipal League,

the Ohio School Boards Association and the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio

- (c) requiring the commission to study the relationship between services provided by local governments and those provided by state government
- (d) allowing the commission to create an advisory council of interested parties representing both taxing and non-taxing authorities

These provisions were amended into the Budget Corrections Bill, H.B. 562, which was signed by Governor Strickland on June 24. The OCLGRC will be formed within 60 days and will report its findings by July 1, 2010. For more information visit the General Assembly's website: [www.legislature.state.oh.us](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us).

Senator Robert Schuler, 7th Ohio Senate District, can be reached at (614) 466-9737



# The Home Repair Services Program

By Pat Hanrahan

The Home Repair Services Program provides home repairs and accessibility modifications to very low income homeowners in Hamilton County, with an emphasis on service to the elderly and handicapped. The program is administered by People Working Cooperatively (PWC) and is made possible by a Community Development Block Grant issued by the Hamilton County Department of Community Development. Low income residents of communities who participate in the Block Grant Program may be eligible for this program.

The program offers two types of services designated as emergency repairs and critical repairs. Emergency repairs are, often by necessity, performed prior to client income qualification. Prior to any service, the homeowner must sign an affidavit of eligibility. If, after service has been rendered, it is determined that the homeowner is not income eligible PWC follows up to recover the applicable costs. Typical emergency conditions include lack of heat during winter months, electrical conditions that pose a serious fire hazard and repairs to essential plumbing installations.



In 2007, 622 Hamilton County residents benefitted from the "Home Repair Program."

Critical repairs are those deemed essential to the safety of the homeowner and the integrity of the home, but not of an emergency nature. PWC project managers assess the home's deficiencies and then determine an appropriate level of response. Critical repairs of less than \$2,500 that do not involve replacement of a major system (furnace, septic system, electrical service, etc.) are provided as a grant to the homeowner. Repairs above this limit or to a major system are provided as a loan. Critical repair loans are generally 20 year deferred loans at 0% interest. Critical repairs can also include accessibility modifications for persons with physical disabilities. These modifications are provided as a grant provided that costs do not exceed \$2,500.

More information about this program is available by contacting PWC at 513-351-7921 or [www.pwchomerepairs.org](http://www.pwchomerepairs.org)

Patrick Hanrahan is Program Manager at the Hamilton County Community Development. He can be reached at 531-946-8234 or via email at [pat.hanrahan@hamilton-co.org](mailto:pat.hanrahan@hamilton-co.org).

*...residents of communities who participate in the Block Grant Program may be eligible*

## Hamilton County CDBG Program Participating Communities 2008

Addyston	Elmwood Place	Lockland	Sharonville
Anderson Township	Fairfax	Loveland	Silverton
Arlington Heights	Forest Park	Miami Township	Springdale
Blue Ash	Glendale	Montgomery	Springfield Township
Cheviot	Golf Manor	Mt. Healthy	Sycamore Township
Cleves	Greenhills	North Bend	Whitewater Township
Colerain Township	Green Township	North College Hill	Woodlawn
Crosby Township	Harrison City	Norwood	Wyoming
Deer Park	Harrison Township	Reading	
Delhi Township	Lincoln Heights	St. Bernard	

Note: Symmes Township will start participating effective March 1, 2009.

## Initiating Brownfield Redevelopments on a Limited Budget

By Dan Ferguson

Communities are aggressively getting involved in the redevelopment of vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties to allow new opportunities for jobs and investment.

A great deal of attention is given to the large State grant programs such as Job Ready Sites, Clean Ohio, and the Industrial Sites Improvement Fund. Communities are finding that they must make the first steps before applying to these funds or before a developer or end user gets involved. Budgets for these activities are becoming increasingly constrained but nevertheless are considered crucial.

There are two programs that provide financial assistance in the investigation of environmental conditions on economic development projects.

The Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) program offered by the Ohio EPA and provides funding for phase 1 & 2 environmental assessments. A limited amount of funding is available State-wide and is offered on a first-come first-serve basis. New funds are anticipated to be available in the early summer and in the fall of 2008. One advantage of this program is (as of writing this article) that there is no local match requirement.

The Urban Land Assistance Program (ULAP) administered by the Hamilton County Development Company is another program available to communities. This program provides funding for environmental investigation but can also be used for environmental remediation, and the demolition of blighted structures. This program does have local match requirements and economic development expectations.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on either of these programs or are considering redevelopment projects in industrial or commercial areas throughout Hamilton County.

Daniel Ferguson  
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# news update

## Congratulations Graduates!

David Aaronson and Rodney Elkins from Forest Park, and Debbie Mills and Terri Treinen from Greenhills have completed the five-session training that makes up the Certified Planning Commissioners' Program.

## Community COMPASS Update

The Community COMPASS - Hamilton County's 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies - is having its five year anniversary in 2008. To assure that the Plan is up to date, the Vision and High Priority Initiatives have been sent to local communities, Planning Partnership representatives, and other interested individuals and organizations with a request for review and comment by July 11, 2008. The top three high priority initiatives in the 2003 Plan were a comprehensive economic development plan, countywide growth plan, and regional and multi-modal transit system. The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission will act on the update following local input. The Plan Update can be viewed on the internet at: <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/CCUpdate.asp>. Any questions on the process can be directed to Caroline Statkus at 513-946-4461 or [caroline.statkus@hamilton-co.org](mailto:caroline.statkus@hamilton-co.org).

Since Community COMPASS was adopted in 2003, over 50 community building initiatives have been launched in the following programs – each serving as a catalyst for cooperative planning and inter-governmental coordination and achieving progress toward a better future for Hamilton County. Some of the most significant are Project Impact, First Suburbs Consortium, Local Alliance for Nature and Development, Certified Planning Commissioners' Program, Hamilton County Data Portraits, Census Challenge, and a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

## OTR Project Explores Historic Preservation and LEED Building Design

Hamilton County Land-HC is a co-leader in a Project that explores the harmony between historic preservation and environmentally conscious building design. Managed by the Over-the-Rhine Foundation and Gray & Pape, Inc., the project will test the commonly held perception that there is a conflict between energy efficient design and "old, drafty" buildings. Specifically, the project will look for both, points of conflict and consistency, between the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic rehabilitation and current LEED rating systems using four project properties in Over-the-Rhine.

The Project began in March and has been making rapid progress with a cross section of professionals providing multidisciplinary input. A University of Cincinnati School of Architecture and Design studio component of the work has just been completed. Findings and a final written product will be released later this summer. Both the National Historic Trust and the U.S. Green Building Council are aware of the project, and it is anticipated that it will be of interest on a national level. The project is made possible through grants from Duke Energy, the National Parks Service, and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. For more information contact Mike Morgan, Director of the Over-the-Rhine Foundation at 513-721-1317.

## Task Force for Community Safety

Local governments are challenged to manage sex offenders residing in their communities in the interest of public safety and community stabilization. In response to this, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners have convened a Task Force for Community Safety: Addressing Sex Offender Issues in Hamilton County.

This group will review and consider information and recommendations from a recent Community COMPASS Special Research Report entitled "Sex Offenders and Communities: Community Solutions for Prevention, Management, and Release of Sex Offenders in Hamilton County,

Ohio" The research report was requested by the Commissioners to identify ways to better protect and inform citizens, and at the same time, to consider measures to reduce the likelihood of sex offenders re-offending. The 10-person Task Force is expected to meet over the next several months and will propose recommendations to the Commissioners in early 2009. Task Force members cover a range of perspectives on sex offender issues including prosecution, defense, victim advocates, and treatment. The report can be viewed at:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/pdf/SexOffendersInCommunitiesSpecialReport.pdf>

## Farewell to "Tommie" Thompson



Tommie Thompson passed away on June 25, 2008. Tommie Thompson was an urban planner for the city of Cincinnati for 27 years, where she presided over several community plans, including the 1985 Over-the-Rhine plan, and helped craft the Colerain Connector Redevelopment plan.

Ms. Thompson was a dedicated volunteer involved in many progressive causes over the years, including the Planning Partnership of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission.

This picture was taken during the 2006 Planning Partnership Annual Meeting.

Back by popular demand  
**HIP**  
Home Improvement Program  
was reinstated on  
Wednesday, May 28

For more information contact  
Pat Hanrahan at 531-946-8234

# Public Health and Planning

Improving walkability and bikeability in our communities

## Hamilton County Bike Commuting Pilot Program In the Works

The County—as part of a larger effort to reduce energy use and pollution—is planning to introduce a bike commuting program for its employees that will provide accommodations and incentives for riding to work. Proponents are counting on the benefits of a healthier lifestyle and “savings at the pump” to draw interest to participate in the program.

A multi-department team that includes Regional Planning Commission, Human Resources, Facilities, and the Administrator's Office is working out the details for the implementation of this program.

The team is discovering many existing



Source: Bikes Belong Coalition

resources that could support bike commuting. The Alms & Doepke Building, and some other county facilities, have locker rooms that can be shared, the downtown YWCA offers “shower only” memberships at a reduced rate, and the County Administration Building has a few different options for securely storing bicycles.

The pilot project to start downtown will be replicated throughout all County locations, if successful. Eventually, Hamilton County can be a model for other large employers and organizations throughout the County interested in promoting bike commuting.

For more information, contact Andy Dobson at 946-4466 or [andy.dobson@hamilton-co.org](mailto:andy.dobson@hamilton-co.org)

Some facts to consider:

The average person loses 13 lbs. their first year of commuting by bike.

Just 3 hours of bicycling per week can reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke by 50%.

Each U.S. rush-hour auto commuter spends an average of 50 hours a year stuck in traffic.

The U.S. could save 462 million gallons of gasoline a year by increasing cycling from 1% to 1.5% of all trips.

60% of the pollution created by automobile emissions happens in the first few minutes of operation, before pollution control devices can work effectively.

24% of all trips are made within a mile of the home, 40% of all trips are made within two miles of the home, and 50% of the working population commutes five miles or less to work.

## Columbus Makes it Easier to Walk

To bridge the gap between public health professionals and planners, and also to work with neighborhoods to promote healthier living, the city of Columbus' Health Commissioner Dr. Teresa Long, hired planner Christina Godward. One project has involved developing basic neighborhood maps. The focus is on providing a simple map that indicates common daily destinations and possible walking routes within neighborhoods. You can visit the website [www.publichealth.columbus.gov/resources/walking\\_maps.asp](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov/resources/walking_maps.asp) and download a map to see what they are like.

Source: PCJ Editor Wayne Semville <http://pcj.typepad.com/>



## Sign up for your complementary copy TODAY! Update The Planning Partnership Newsletter

UPDATE, a quarterly publication of the Planning Partnership of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC), informs planning and zoning commissioners, elected officials and administrators, and others interested in development and redevelopment issues in Hamilton County.

To receive a complementary copy via email, please subscribe at [update.news@hamilton-co.org](mailto:update.news@hamilton-co.org)

If you'd like to receive a printed copy please provide the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/ Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the above information and a check made to the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission for \$10.00 for printing, shipping and handling to:

Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission—138 E. Court Street Room 807—Cincinnati OH 45202

Note: Jurisdiction members of the HCRPC receive 20 free copies per issue sent to the address on record.

# upcoming events

## SAVE THE DATE

July 30, 2008

First Suburbs Consortium  
Membership Meeting

The next First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio membership meeting will be Wednesday July 30, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Springfield Township Senior Community Center at 9158 Winton Road.

Don Lenz and Commissioner Todd Portune will present a concrete proposal for creating a Hamilton County land bank. A lot of work is taking place across the state that will make it easier for communities to acquire vacant and abandoned properties and put them back into productive use.

For additional information, contact Andy Dobson at 513-946-4466.

## REGISTER NOW

September 24, 2008

Ethics and the Commission

October 28, 2008

Site Plan Review

These training sessions are part of the Certified Planning Commissioners' Program. Planning and Zoning Commissioners are welcome to attend. These seminars qualify for AICP credits.

Both sessions will be held at the Drake Conference Center.

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (Ethics)

5:30 PM—8:30 PM (Site Plan)

Instructors: Greg Dale FAICP, and Todd Kinskey, AICP and Terrance Vanderman.

To register contact Jay Springer at 513-946-4459.

A registration form can be found at  
[http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/control/upload/database\\_download.asp?FileID=135](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/control/upload/database_download.asp?FileID=135)

### Planning Partnership



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[www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/partner/](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/partner/)